

Radio on Stamps  
The Canadian Amateur  
Neil Carleton VE3NCE  
17 February 2025

The history of radio is a fascinating topic. Thank you to TCA columnist Robert Mazur VA3ROM for sharing your research in recent issues ... The Road to Radio parts 1 and 2. It's a remarkable story about the contributions of many people over the centuries.

Many inventors and pioneers have been featured on postage stamps from around the world. Here are 16 examples from a variety of postal territories past and present.



Otto Von Guericke ... Christiaan Hugens ... Prokop Divis ... Luigi Galvani

Otto Von Guericke (1606-1686) German physicist ... built the first electrical generator and demonstrated the phenomena of both conduction and induction.

Christiaan Hugens (1629-1695) Dutch physicist ... his work on the wave theory of light paved the way for an understanding of electromagnetic waves.

Prokop Divis (1696-1765) Czechoslovakian physicist ... his research led to the discovery that lightning is atmospheric electricity.

Luigi Galvani (1737-1798) Italian physiologist ... his discovery of electric current in frog leg experiments pioneered the way for the development of the battery.



Alessandro Volta ... Andre Marie Ampere... Carl Friedrich Gauss ... Zenobe Theophile Gramme

Alessandro Volta (1745-1827) Italian physicist ... he demonstrated that electricity could originate from a current formed by the contact of dissimilar metals ... invented the electric battery ... SI unit of electric potential was named the volt in his honour.

Andre Marie Ampere (1775-1836) French scientist ... his experiments that differentiated between electricity and magnetism led to the development of the electromagnet ... Si unit of electric current was named the ampere in his honour.

Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1853) German mathematical physicist ... best known for his work in terrestrial magnetism ... CGS unit of magnetic induction the gauss was named in his honour.

Zenobe Theophile Gramme (1826-1901) Belgian electrical engineer ... he invented an electrical generator that produced direct current.



Edouard Branly ... Adolf Karl Heinrich Slaby ... Augusto Righi ... Karl Ferdinand Braun

Edouard Branly (1844-1940) French physicist ... invented the coherer, the first detector of wireless waves ... his work was used by Popov and Marconi in early wireless experiments.

Adolf Karl Heinrich Slaby (1849-1913) German physicist ... his wireless system was adapted by the German navy.

Augusto Righi (1850-1920) Italian physicist ... his most well known work was the investigation of Hertzian waves ... Marconi attended his lectures.

Karl Ferdinand Braun (1850-1918) German physicist ... invented the phased array antenna ... shared the 1909 Nobel prize with Marconi for their contributions to wireless telegraphy.



Heinrich Hertz ... Alexander Stepanovitch Popov ... Guglielmo Marconi ... Reginald Aubrey Fessenden

Heinrich Hertz (1857-1894) German physicist ... produced electromagnetic waves and proved they could be reflected, refracted, polarized and diffracted just as light can ... SI unit of frequency the hertz is named in his honour.

Alexander Stepanovitch Popov (1859-1906) Russian physicist ... considered in Russia to be the inventor of radio.

Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) Italian inventor ... credited as the inventor of the first practical system of wireless telegraphy.

Reginald Aubrey Fessenden (1866-1932) Canadian inventor ... first person to transmit voice by radio ... made the first radio broadcast in history.

Other radio topics on stamps range from amateur radio and morse code to radio stations and listening to radio.



amateur radio: Indonesia

Morse code: Australia

radio station: Russia

radio listening: Costa Rica